



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SANTIAGO • CHILE

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHILE

U.S. EMBASSY SANTIAGO NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL WARDENS' MEETING

HELD ON APRIL 18, 2009



In appreciation of the wardens' dedication and valuable assistance to the Embassy and fellow U.S. citizens in Chile, Ms. Carol Urban, our Deputy Chief of Mission, hosted the Annual Warden Meeting at her home on April 18, 2009. Ambassador Paul Simons joined Ms. Urban and Consul General Chris Bendsen in welcoming the 100

guests that attended the meeting. The Ambassador addressed issues that included U.S.-Chile relations, the increase in U.S. students participating in exchange programs in Chilean universities, the recently launched U.S. Embassy Facebook page, and he followed his talk with a question-answer session. After the year-end review of the Warden System, Ms. Urban presented Certificate Awards to some of the warden volunteers. Congratulations to all those who received Award Certificates!



If you would like to learn more about the Embassy's Warden System or would like to volunteer to be a warden, please send us an e-mail at SantiagoAmcit@state.gov.

Inside this issue:

Annual Warden Meeting	1
Authenticating documents before moving to Chile	2
U.S. Passport Card	2
A/H1N1 Flu Virus	3
Introducing the Vice-Consul and ACS Team	3
FAQs: Is there a Notary at the Embassy?	4
Hablemos en Español and Useful Information	5

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Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-11:30 am. Closed U.S. and Chilean holidays and the first Friday of each month.



Authenticating U.S. documents in the United States before moving to Chile

The number of U.S. citizens that move to Chile has increased dramatically in the last decade. Many, however, ignore the fact that Chile has a strong legalist culture and are unprepared to submit duly authenticated U.S. documents as required by Chilean authorities in both the public and private sectors. These documents are required in connection with applications for local driver's licenses, bank accounts, bank loans, school registration, retirement benefits, etc.



Most Chilean public services require that foreign documents be authenticated by the Chilean consul in the issuing country (<http://chileabroad.gov.cl>), and then ratified by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Santiago (<http://www.minrel.gov.cl>) before the documents can be considered valid for official purposes in Chile. Obtaining the appropriate authentications at the corresponding Chilean consulate prior to moving to Chile will save you time, money and frustration!



Please note that U.S. consular officers do not have the authority to authenticate U.S. documents for use in a foreign country.

New U.S. Passport Card

How to get one and how much does it cost?

The Department of State started to produce the U.S. Passport Card on July 14, 2008. Although this wallet-size document is convenient and less expensive than the passport book, the U.S. Passport Card is **not valid** for International travel by air. This card **can only be used** to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. This passport card is issued in the U.S. and it takes approximately 4-6 weeks to arrive from the time of application. It has the same validity period as the passport book: ten years for an adult and 5 years for minors under age 16. First time applicants pay \$45 for adult cards and \$35 for children. If eligible, adults who already have a fully valid passport book can apply for a card as a passport renewal by mail and pay \$20. If you would like to apply for the U.S. Passport Card, you can find more information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html or stop by the Consular section any time during office hours Mon-Fri 8:30-11:30 am (except U.S. and Chilean holidays and the first Friday of each month) for further questions.



A/H1N1 FLU VIRUS



As of July 2nd, the Chilean Ministry of Health has reported 8,160 confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza in Chile. The numbers continue to rise as more and more people become infected by this virus. Chilean health authorities recommend the following prevention measures: wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes, cover your cough and sneeze with your upper sleeve, and avoid crowded settings and close contact with others.

More information on this topic and prevention measures may be found at www.cdc.gov and www.minsal.gov.

Stay healthy and take care of yourself and your family!

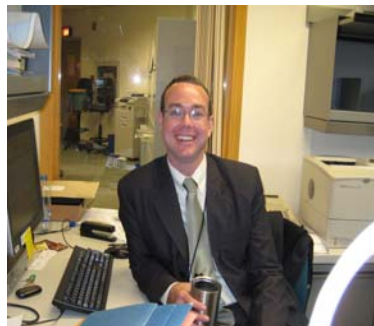
New Vice-Consul Arrives to Post

I recently arrived to Santiago, Chile, and I am very pleased to be here. I am impressed by the reception of the Chileans, and I look forward to working the next few years in Chile. Before coming to Santiago, I worked at the US Embassies in Sanaá, Yemen and Baghdad, Iraq. Previously, I taught in Nanjing, China and Koyasan, Japan. This is my third tour with the U.S. Department of State and my first assignment in South America. I'm excited to be here.

I begin work in the American Citizen Services Unit, and I hope to meet many of you over the next few months.

Best wishes,

Lee Calkins



Meet your ACS Team



The members of the American Citizen Services Unit greet you and stand ready to serve you at all times. For general questions and assistance, please e-mail us at [**SantiagoAmcit@state.gov**](mailto:SantiagoAmcit@state.gov).

For matters related to Federal Benefits e-mail us at [**SantiagoFBU@state.gov**](mailto:SantiagoFBU@state.gov).



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q: I need to notarize my signature on a document for use in the United States. Can I do this at the American Citizen Services Unit? How much does it cost? Do I need an appointment?

ACS: Yes, you can. Notary services are available on a walk-in basis during our regular public hours – no prior appointment is necessary. You will be required to submit an official government picture I.D issued by the U.S. or Chile, such as a passport, driver's license, military card or Chilean I.D. card. The name on the document to be notarized must match the name on your I.D.

If you are a married woman, and the name on the document is your married name, but your I.D. only shows your maiden name, please submit your marriage certificate as well.

The fee for this service is \$30 for the first document and \$20 for each additional document in connection with the same transaction.

Q: I must submit a certified copy of my I.D. document to the IRS. Can I get a certified copy at the American Citizen Services Unit?

ACS: Yes, you can. Certifications of true copies cost \$30 for the first certification and \$20 for each additional copy. This service is available during our regular public hours. You must bring the original document and a photocopy of the same. We can make a copy for you for a fee of \$1 per page.

Q: I need to authenticate my Chilean birth certificate for use in the United States. What do I need for this service? How much does it cost?

ACS: If you need to authenticate a Chilean birth certificate for use in the United States, you must first obtain an authentication stamp (legalización) at the Chilean Ministry of Justice (<http://www.minjusticia.cl/Tramites/folleto02.pdf>) and then at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (http://www.minrel.gov.cl/prontus_minrel/site/artic/20080910/pags/20080910153956.php) prior to coming to the Embassy. After you receive the required Chilean authentication stamps, the Embassy will be able to provide final authentication during our walk-in hours. The fee is \$30 for each document. Please follow this procedure for any Chilean civil document, such as, death, marriage or police certificate.

Consular fees may be paid in cash (dollars or pesos) or by credit card – checks are not acceptable.

Questions? Comments?

**What would you like to see in the next edition of the Newsletter?
Anything interesting happening in your community that you would
like to share with your fellow U.S. citizens? We welcome you to contact us at**

**In addition to official holidays, the ACS unit
will also be closed on every first Friday of the
month: Aug 7, Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6 and Dec 4.**





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New:

¡HABLEMOS EN ESPAÑOL!

Correct use of “asi” versus “como así”

Some people mistakenly say: Me gusta que las cosas hagan como así.

What you should say: Me gusta que las cosas se hagan así.

Meaning: (in this way /like this)

Proverb: GUAGUA QUE NO LLORA NO MAMA.

THE BABY WHO DOES NOT CRY DOES NOT SUCKLE.

(The squeaky wheel gets the oil.)

Thanks to Susana Valenzuela, our Embassy Spanish teacher



PLANNING TO TRAVEL WITHIN CHILE OR TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

We recommend that you visit the Department
of State website at www.travel.state.gov.

REGISTER WITH THE EMBASSY

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

When an emergency happens, the Embassy can be your source of assistance and information.

By registering with the Embassy, you help us locate you when you might need us most.

You also will be able to receive warden messages, event information, and ACS Newsletters.

Be smart, be safe!

